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501.42869X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: T. IWASAKI, et al.
Application No.: 10/611,862
Filed: July 3, 2003
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE WITH MULTILAYER
CONDUCTIVE STRUCTURE FORMED ON A
SEMICONDUCTOR SUBSTRATE
Art Unit: 2813
Examiner: S. W. Smoot

REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner For Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 24, 2005

Sir:

Receipt is hereby acknowledged of an Office Action dated December 28, 2004. With regard to this Office Action, appreciation is expressed for the indication that claims 1-23, 38-46 and 51-55 are in condition for allowance. Appreciation is also expressed for the indication that claim 31 contains allowable subject matter. However, in the Office Action, it is stated that : "Claim 31 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form." Concerning this, from Applicants' review of this matter, it appears that claim 31 is already in independent form. Therefore, it is not clear from the Office Action as to whether the objection to claim 31 is improper, and that claim 31 is actually already in condition for allowance as an independent claim, or whether, alternatively, some claim other than claim 31 was intended. Therefore, clarification of this matter is respectfully requested by way of a new Office Action, together with


resetting the period for response corresponding to the mailing date of the new Office Action.

If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 501.42869X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By 

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GEM/dlt

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